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N. B. In the *Parabolic Trajectory* of this COMET (Plate I. Fig. 2.) suppose that part, from A to B, a little elevated above the plane of ecliptic ; and the remainder, from B to C, as much depressed below it ; the two planes intersecting each other in the line of the nodes, at an angle of  $1^{\circ}. 49$  .

*Some Account of the same COMET, in a Letter from the Right Honorable WILLIAM EARL OF STIRLING ; to WILLIAM SMITH, D. D. Provost of the College of Philadelphia. Communicated to the Society, Aug. 17th, 1770, viz.*

*Baskenridge, June 29, 1770.*

DEAR SIR,

Y O U have reason to think me negligent in not communicating (according to my promises, to you) my Observations of the last TRANSIT OF VENUS. I now send them \*, and you should have had them before, but I have been so much engaged in business the last twelve months, that I have had but little time to think of any thing else.

LAST night, about ten o'clock, I discovered a *New Star*, about  $78^{\circ}$ . distant from the pole. It would pass the meridian, I imagine, about midnight, and a little before Lyra. Its appearance was larger than a Star of the first magnitude, of a dull light, with a bright speck or nucleus, in the center. I take it to be a COMET, and that its tail is from us. But whether it be a Comet or not, will be determined in a few days ; for as it changes its place, and the Earth moves on in its orbit, the position of the tail, with regard to the Earth, must be altered, and will then appear to encrease in length.

JUNE 30th. Last night I again observed the new discovered Star. Its appearance was much as it was the night before, but I think rather larger. Its situation was about  $70^{\circ}$ . from the pole, and it passed the meridian with Lyra almost half after eleven.

\* They are inserted above, P. 20, Appendix.

eleven. I think I have its place so well marked, that in two or three evenings I shall be able to determine its course. What further observations I make before I have an opportunity of sending this, I will add hereto.

JULY 1st, The New Star, which, I no longer doubt, is a *Comet*, on his way to the SUN, passed the meridian last night about twelve o'clock, and nearly half an hour after Lyra, and was advanced to within  $48^{\circ}$ . of the pole, being a little to the Northward of our Zenith. It seemed to me to be encreased in size, the shape rather more oval than circular, the *nucleus* no longer in the center, but advanced towards the northern part of the whole appearance.

JULY 2d, Last night at twelve o'clock, the Comet was nearly East from the pole Star, and about  $8^{\circ}$ . distant from the pole.

JULY 4th. The night before last, being cloudy, the *Comet* was not visible; and last night, (July 3d) although the sky was clear, the Stars bright, and myself on the watch for it till day light began to appear in the East, I could not discover any appearance of the Comet. It must now be gone to the region of light, and we shall not see it more until its return from the Sun.

THE apparent velocity of this Comet, for the last three days of its appearance, has been prodigiously great, which, together with its apparent size, induces me to think, that its real size is but small; and that its path lay at no very great distance from the Earth. But these matters may be better determined, if we have an opportunity of seeing the Comet again, in its return from the Sun.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

S T I R L I N G

*An*